

H.915

An act relating to the protection of pollinators

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 641 is amended to read:

§ 641. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Agricultural seed” includes grass, forage, cereal, oil, fiber, and other kinds of crop seeds commonly recognized as agricultural seeds, lawn seeds, and combinations of such seeds, and may include noxious weed seeds used as agricultural seed.

(2) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or ~~his or her~~ designee.

(3) “Agency” means the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

(4) “Flower seed” includes seed of herbaceous plants grown for their blooms, ornamental foliage, or other ornamental parts; and commonly known and sold under the name of flower seed.

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(7) “Vegetable seeds” include the seeds of those crops ~~which~~ that are grown in gardens and on truck farms and are generally known and sold under the name of vegetable or herb seeds in this State.

* * *

(11) “Economic poison” shall have the same meaning as in section 911 of this title.

(12) “Neonicotinoid pesticide” means any economic poison containing a chemical belonging to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals, including:

(A) imidacloprid;

(B) nithiazine;

(C) acetamiprid;

(D) clothianidin;

(E) dinotefuran;

(F) thiacloprid;

(G) thiamethoxam; and

(H) any other chemical designated by the Secretary by rule.

(13) “Treated corn or soybean seed” means a corn or soybean seed that is treated or covered with a neonicotinoid pesticide.

(14) “Untreated corn or soybean seed” means corn or soybean seed that is not treated with a neonicotinoid pesticide.

Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 3 is added to read:

Subchapter 3. Seed Supply; Untreated Corn or Soybean Seed

§ 650. SEED SUPPLY; UNTREATED CORN OR SOYBEAN SEED

A person who sells treated corn or soybean seed in the State shall offer for sale untreated corn or soybean seed. As used in this section, “offer for sale”

includes arranging for or taking orders for the delivery of untreated corn or soybean seed.

Sec. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIREMENT TO OFFER
UNTREATED CORN OR SOYBEAN SEED

A person shall be required to offer untreated corn or soybean seed for sale under 6 V.S.A. § 650 beginning on July 1, 2018 for the purpose of use during the planting season in 2019.

Sec. 4. AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS REPORT
ON IMPACT OF NEONICOTINOID-TREATED SEEDS ON
POLLINATORS

(a) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets (Secretary) shall assess the effect of neonicotinoid-treated seeds on the loss of pollinator populations in Vermont by independently reviewing claims of pollinator losses by beekeepers. As part of the assessment, the Secretary shall review the recommendations of the Pollinator Protection Committee for reducing pollinator losses that were submitted to the General Assembly in February of 2017 in the report required under 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 83. On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to the House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and the Senate Committee on Agriculture the results of the assessment of pollinator losses. The report shall include:

(1) data collected by the Secretary regarding pollinator losses in the State, provided that the data shall be provided in an aggregated form that does

not disclose the identity of individual persons, households, or businesses from whom the data were obtained;

(2) the causes of pollinator losses;

(3) an assessment of whether neonicotinoid-treated seeds caused or contributed to any pollinator losses in Vermont;

(4) a State pollinator protection plan as required by 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 83; and

(5) recommendations for preventing pollinator losses in Vermont.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) “Economic poison” shall have the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. § 911.

(2) “Neonicotinoid pesticide” means any economic poison containing a chemical belonging to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals.

(3) “Neonicotinoid-treated seed” means agricultural seed treated with a neonicotinoid pesticide.

Sec. 5. EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN; PESTICIDES AND POLLINATORS

The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall develop and implement an educational program to inform users of pesticides in the State of the effects of pesticides on pollinators and methods or techniques for mitigating the effects of pesticides on pollinators. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall conduct the educational program at least until July 1, 2020.

Sec. 6. 6 V.S.A. § 1101 is amended to read:

§ 1101. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

* * *

(4) “Economic poison” shall have the meaning stated in subdivision 911(5) of this title.

* * *

(6) “Pesticide” for the purposes of this chapter shall be used interchangeably with “economic poison.”

* * *

(8) “Neonicotinoid pesticide” means any economic poison containing a chemical belonging to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals, including:

(A) imidacloprid;

(B) nithiazine;

(C) acetamiprid;

(D) clothianidin;

(E) dinotefuran;

(F) thiacloprid;

(G) thiamethoxam; and

(H) any other chemical designated by the Secretary by rule.

(9) “Ornamental plants” means any shrub, bush, tree, or other plant used or intended for a use other than farming as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001.

Sec. 7. 6 V.S.A. § 1105b is added to read:

§ 1105b. APPLICATION OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES

A person shall not apply neonicotinoid pesticides to ornamental plants in the State, except:

(1) as authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under a right-of-way permit for the application of pesticides; or

(2) as authorized for application on a golf course regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect passage, except that Secs. 6 and 7 (neonicotinoid pesticide application to ornamental plants) shall take effect January 1, 2021.